

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland



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2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Md.

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by Charles J. Cignatta

HEADINGS; Irving E. Hampe

MARYLAND BIRD LIFE

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Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Refuge, Laurel, Md.

Art Editor: Irving E. Hampe

Production: M. Catherine Crone, Orville Crowder, J. L. Gerry



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## LOCAL BIRD NAMES FROM MARYLAND

Besides the formal "book names" of birds, there are often in use various "unofficial" names - usually termed "local names" because they are frequently known and used only in more or less restricted localities. An outstanding illustration is supplied by the Flicker; about fifty years ago an ornithologist who undertook to discover all the names applied to this species in one part of the country or another ended up with a list of 132.

The index of F. C. Kirkwood's "A List of the Birds of Maryland", pages 241-382 of the Transactions of the Maryland Academy of Sciences for 1895, and W. L. McAtee's "Local Names of Migratory Game Birds", published in 1937, contain many local names that were — some, at least, still are — in use in Maryland. During the last ten years I have noted these additional ones:

Double-crested Cormorant — In 1950, Mr. Frank Henry, a writer for the Baltimore Sun, mentioned that on the Eastern Shore this bird is commonly called "Pocomoke Gander"; he has also heard it called that at Norfolk, Va.

Green Heron — In 1940, Mr. Ben H. Miller, of Easton, told me this species was called "Skowk" in that neighborhood.

Sparrow Hawk — In 1950 Mr. Virgil B. Turner, of Federalsburg, in a letter referred to a hawk as the "Little Colonel". Questioned, he proved unable to give the bird's formal name. But he kept my query in mind, and in the spring of 1951 succeeded in capturing a specimen at its roosting place in the high school at Federalsburg. Excellent photographs, and measurements, that he then sent me showed the bird to be a female Sparrow Hawk, and later Mr. Seth H. Low and Mr. Orville W. Crowder saw the bird at Federalsburg and confirmed its identity. The name "Little Colonel" is in general use about Federalsburg, Mr. Turner said.

Tufted Titmouse — Frequently called "Tomtit" about Baltimore.

Mockingbird — In 1940 I heard "Nightingale" at High Bridge, Prince Georges County, and in 1948 heard this same name used by an Eastern Shore woman.

Brown Thrasher — In 1950 I heard "Sandy Martin" used for this bird in Catonsville. ("Sandy Mockin", of course, is common.)

Baltimore Oriole — An item in the Baltimore Sun of 1847 calls this bird "Baltimore Robin".

Hervey Brackbill  
4608 Springdale Ave., Baltimore

## THE SEASON - May, June, July, August, 1951

Chandler S. Robbins

The May migration of 1951 was a most disappointing one to those bird students whose first introduction to spring migration in this area was in the spring of 1950. To those of us who recall spring warbler flights of prior years, the current season was a return to normal conditions. Your compiler made daily early morning trips of one-half hour duration along a five-eighths mile stretch of wooded bottomland on the Patuxent Refuge from mid-April to late May in 1950 and 1951, counting all migrants within ear-shot on each trip. Of the commonest species, those represented by 100 or more individuals during the two-year period, only the Blue Jay, Red-eyed Vireo and Goldfinch were more common in 1951 than in 1950. Species whose abundance remained about the same were the Olive-backed and Wood Thrushes, Kentucky Warbler, Redstart, and Scarlet Tanager. Those which dropped to one-half their 1950 total were the Parula and Myrtle Warblers, Purple Finch and White-throated Sparrow. The Chestnut-sided Warbler and Oven-bird were reduced to one-quarter, but this is relatively poor habitat for these two species. Of the less common species, those whose totals ran between 50 and 99 individuals, the Black and White Warbler and the Northern Water-thrush were unchanged in abundance; the Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Canada Warblers and the Yellow-throat decreased to one-half, and the Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers registered only one-quarter of their 1950 total. Strangely enough, Willis reported these latter two species as more common than last year at Middle River, showing that detailed records from one area may not be typical of the entire region. Most of Willis's other species showed the same drops observed along the Patuxent River. A notable exception was the Redstart which fell sharply at Middle River while it maintained its abundance in the favored Patuxent habitat. The five species which showed the greatest drop (about 90 percent) at Patuxent were the Hermit Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Blue-winged and Tennessee Warblers.

There were heavy rains in June (over 12 inches at Triadelphia Reservoir) and locally heavy rains in July (up to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches at Conowingo, but less than 1 inch in Laurel). These appear to have interfered with nesting activities, as evidenced by extension of the song period of several species to late dates. The fall warbler migration began on July 24 and 25 (see Table 2), following the warmest days of that month. We normally associate southward migration with cool weather, but the cold front which initiated this movement stalled just to the north of us and our own weather conditions gave no hint that migrants were to be expected. The next significant cold air mass to penetrate into Maryland brought a very early Canada Warbler to Middle River on Aug. 5. Other cold fronts on Aug. 17 and 22 brought a deluge of early arrivals, but few additional migrants appeared in the closing week of August.

Loons, Grebes, Waterfowl. More than the usual number of summer stragglers of these birds were reported. Charles Buchanan saw a Common Loon on June 11 at Stillpond, Kent County; and Robert F. Deed identified a late Red-throated Loon at Seneca on May 12. Single Horned Grebes in breeding plumage were noted in the Gunpowder River on July 17 (Thomas A. Imhof) and at Ocean City on July 8 (Robert E. Stewart). Two Whistling Swans were observed at Grasonville on May 25 by Marvin Hewitt, and Imhof saw an adult in the Gunpowder River on May 31. The latter observer also reported a lone Canada Goose and a late migration of 14 Blue Geese on May 15, 4 late Gadwall on May 5, a summer population of 18 Wood Ducks on June 6, and the following summer stragglers, all in the Gunpowder Neck area: 4 Greater Scaup on May 31, 1 Lesser Scaup on June 6, 17 Redheads through the summer, and an American Golden-eye on July 25. Two American Golden-eyes and a male Buffle-head were seen on June 9 at Cobb Island in Charles County (John W. Taylor, Jr., and Deed), and a male Redhead on June 3 at Strawberry Creek, Baltimore Co. (Edwin Willis). The first mid-summer record of Brant was obtained by J. H. Buckalew, who saw a flying bird at South Point on July 6.

Vultures and Hawks. On May 11 Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher and Margarete Butenschoen saw a flock of 50 Black Vultures at the Bohemia River, Cecil Co., the largest flock ever recorded from the Eastern Shore; then, on June 2, the Fletchers and Mr. Hewitt noted 2 birds near Denton, adding Caroline County to the rapidly expanding range of this southern species. Members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club watched a late Duck Hawk chasing a small sandpiper on Assateague Island on May 13. Early fall migrants included a Marsh Hawk at Strawberry Point, July 24 (Willis) and 4 Sparrow Hawks in Howard County between Laurel and Dayton (Robbins) and 2 at Ruthsburg in Caroline County (Hewitt) the same day.

Pheasants, Rails and Coot. Two Ring-necked Pheasants were recorded at Greensboro, May 2 (Alton Smith), and 1 to 3 birds were found in June at Whiteford in Harford County, Alesia in Carroll County, and Clear Spring, Washington County, all near the southern limit of their range (Robbins). Robert Deed found as many as 3 King Rails at Seneca on May 12, and Robert Stewart recorded this species at Patuxent Refuge for the first time on June 4. Eight Florida Gallinules on May 15 was a high count for Gunpowder Neck (Imhof), and a Coot recorded at Grasonville on May 25 was decidedly late (Hewitt).

Shorebirds. There were a number of interesting records among this group, including some extreme migration dates and several unusual inland records. The American Oyster-catcher which provided the first breeding record for the State was first noted on its nesting island on May 13 by David A. Cutler. A Semipalmated Plover seen at Middle River on June 9 is the latest spring migrant on record away from the coast. Single Black-bellied Plovers provided first records for Gunpowder Neck (Imhof) and Patuxent Refuge (Mitchell, Robbins) on May 15 and May 24, respectively. A still scarcer shorebird for an inland area was the Knot; Imhof identified a flock of 4 flying up the Gunpowder River on

May 15. Willis and Duvall Jones saw a White-rumped Sandpiper and 2 Red-backs at Strawberry Point, May 26, and 5 White-rumps the following day; this is the second spring record for that species in the Chesapeake area. Willis saw his last Semipalmated (5) and Least (6) Sandpipers on June 3; and as early as July 1 his first southbound Least and Western Sandpiper appeared. On May 13 the Delaware Valley O. C. reported 23 species of shorebirds from the Ocean City area, including the seldom-seen Northern Phalarope, and such uncommon spring migrants as the Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper. Fifteen late Purple Sandpipers were still present at Ocean City on the very late date of May 19 (M.O.S. trip). Willis noted a Solitary Sandpiper at Middle River on the extraordinary dates of June 17 and 19. A flock of 20 early Dowitchers, southbound, was seen at Ocean City on July 7 (Stewart).

Gulls and Terns. Two stray Black-backed Gulls, which were seen at Ocean City by Cutler on July 7, furnished the first summer record for Maryland of this rapidly increasing northern species. The last Herring Gull left the Middle River area on May 12, but 10 Ring-bills in first year plumage remained there all summer. Tern records of special interest included: a Forster's Tern at Middle River on May 13 (Willis), the first spring record from that area; 17 Common Terns at Choptank, Aug. 8 (Hewitt), first record for Caroline County; several Roseate Terns carefully identified off South Point on May 12 (Dick Miller), and a single bird of this species noted the same day at Ocean City by Quintin Kramer and Joseph Cudbury.

Cuckoos. The erratic cuckoos were virtually absent during their normal spring migration period. Only stray individuals were reported before June 10, and it was not until the last third of that month that a light sprinkling of breeding Yellow-bills arrived. The peak flight of Black-bills did not reach east of Garrett County; one late migrant was singing in Laurel on June 30.

Land Birds. Table 1 shows comparative arrival dates for those parts of the State for which the most records were available. It is essentially a continuation of the table in the previous issue, and is compiled from the reports of the same observers, with the addition of Mrs. Eleanor E. North for the Gibson Island Chat and Mr. and Mrs. Cole for Towson records combined under Lake Roland. "O" indicates that the species went unrecorded during the entire migration period, whereas a blank means that no significant arrival date was reported. The under-scored dates were the earliest for the State this year. The scarcity of early dates from the Pocomoke reflects in part the lack of observers in that area on week days. On the other hand, more than one-third of the species which do not arrive in Maryland until May reach us through the Mississippi Valley and the Appalachians; these birds normally appear first in the mountain or Piedmont sections of the State and also reach their greatest abundance there. They become increasingly scarce as one moves eastward or southward through the Coastal Plain and in many years the rarer species are not seen at all on the Eastern Shore during the spring migration period.

Table 1. Spring arrival dates, 1951

Species	Lake Rold	Mid. Riv.	Silv Sprg	Patu xent	So. Md.	Gibs Is.	Caro line	Poco moke
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	6/21	5/26	6/26	0	0	5/17	5/13
Black-billed Cuckoo	4/30	0	5/8	0	0	0	5/5	5/5
R-thr. Hummingbird	5/11	5/6	5/14	5/8		4/20	5/13	5/13
Acadian Flycatcher	5/8	5/25	5/3	4/29	5/6	0	5/5	5/5
Wood Pewee	5/14	5/15	5/5	5/13	5/12		5/13	5/13
Olive-backed Thrush	5/13	4/29		5/10	5/12	0	0	5/13
Veery	5/1	4/30	4/28	5/13		5/5	0	5/13
Worm-eating Warbler	5/13	0		5/5		0	0	5/5
Golden-winged Warbler	4/26	5/3	5/3	5/1	0	0	5/3	5/5
Blue-winged Warbler	4/29	5/4		4/29	4/27	0	5/5	5/5
Tennessee Warbler	5/19	0	5/5	5/3	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	5/13	5/13	0	5/2	0	0	0	0
Magnolia Warbler	5/9	4/29	4/29	5/7	5/12	0	5/12	0
Cape May Warbler	5/8	0	5/7	5/3	0	5/5	5/11	5/5
Bl-thr Blue Warbler	5/2	4/29		4/30	5/5	0	5/4	5/13
Blackburnian Warbler		5/10	5/10	4/29	0		0	0
Chest-sided Warbler	4/30	5/3	5/5	5/3	5/5	0	5/4	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/15	5/14	0	5/5	0	0	0	5/13
Black-poll Warbler	4/30	5/12	5/5	5/2	5/5	5/5	5/4	5/5
Northern Water-thrush	4/26	4/26		5/3		4/29	5/4	4/15
Kentucky Warbler	4/30	0	5/3	4/30	5/7		5/4	5/4
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/8	5/2	5/8	5/1	5/5	4/3	5/4	5/5
Wilson's Warbler	5/12	5/12	5/14	5/23	0	0	5/4	0
Canada Warbler	5/12	5/9		5/9	5/5	5/18	0	5/13
Orchard Oriole	6/3	5/4		5/1	5/5	4/26	5/4	5/5
Baltimore Oriole	5/3	4/30	5/6	4/30	5/12	5/5	4/28	5/5
Scarlet Tanager	5/2	4/30	5/2	4/28	5/5	4/29	5/4	5/5

Flycatchers and Swallows. Two of the Empidonax flycatchers are extending their breeding range into the Piedmont section of Maryland. The Alder Flycatcher, which has previously nested only in Garrett County, at elevations above 2000 feet, was discovered in late June in six alder swamps in northern Carroll and Frederick Counties (Stewart and Robbins); some, and perhaps all of the males were singing the western "Fitz-bew" song. In the past three or four years this species has been extending its range to lower elevations in West Virginia, and has also moved into southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Alder swamps in other Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas should be closely watched during the next few summers and special attention should be given to the song of all transient and breeding flycatchers. In addition to the Least Flycatcher records listed in the 1951 nesting summary, should be mentioned 2 birds (one singing) at the north tip of Loch Raven on June 15 (Buchanan). A migratory flock of 220 Bank Swal-

lows in the early part of this century would hardly be worth listing, but few present-day Maryland observers have seen this many together away from a nesting colony; this flock was recorded at Back River on May 13 (Willis). Then on Aug. 11, Douglas Hackman found over 400 on telephone wires at White Marsh.

Jays and Crows. Flocks of Blue Jays were conspicuous early morning migrants in the first half of May. Robbins counted 81 moving northward over Howard County in three quarters of an hour on May 8, and scattered individuals as late as the 15th. Willis observed his last flocks at Middle River on the 16th. For the second year in a row 2 Fish Crows were noted in mid-June at Spickler in the Hagerstown Valley (Robbins).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes. A wide scattering of early reports of the erratic Red-breasted Nuthatch presaged a good flight year for this species: Langley Park and Laurel on Aug. 26 (Catherine Crone and Roxie Simpson, Robbins), Preston on Aug. 29 (Hewitt), Towson on Aug. 30 (Richard and Madeleine Cole), and Howard County on Sept. 4 (Robbins). Skipping back to the spring migration we should mention 4 Winter Wrens seen at Loch Raven on the extremely late date of May 12 (Haven Kolb), and 3 Short-billed Marsh Wrens near Clear Spring in Washington County on June 17 (Robbins). These marsh wrens were believed to be transient individuals since they were not in evidence 2 days previously, nor had they been found during a more intensive study of the same area in 1950. The status of a singing male of this species at Lake Roland on July 4 is not known (Alice S. Kaestner, Pearl Heaps); this is one of the most perplexing of summer resident species, inasmuch as it may arrive in suitable nesting habitat at any time from May to August, and yet definite evidence of nesting is seldom obtained. A singing Bewick's Wren at the Pinesburg crossroads south of Hagers-town on June 17 was near the eastern boundary of its nesting range (Robbins). Late departure dates for thrushes included: Hermit Thrush, 1 at Middle River, May 7 (Willis); Olive-backed Thrush, 1 in Baltimore, June 6 (Buchanan); Veery, 1 at Middle River, June 4 and in Howard County, June 5 (Willis, Robbins). Veeries gave additional evidence of summering in the suburbs of Baltimore and Washington, but still have not been reported where they might sooner have been expected, in the high country of Washington and Frederick Counties. The Coles heard 2 singing at Ruxton on June 14, 21 and 30; and Frank C. Cross and John H. Fales heard one at Woodside, not far from the Rock Creek nesting birds, on June 25 and 27.

Gnatcatchers, Vireos. This was a poor year for gnatcatchers, possibly as a result of the severe freeze which engulfed their southeastern wintering ground in early February. Richard and Madeleine Cole had an enviable experience with Philadelphia Vireos, which were regular visitors to trees around their home starting on the record date of Aug. 25; up to 10 individuals were observed at once on Aug. 27, considerably more than any previous report from this State.

**Warblers.** The spring migration has been covered in the introduction and in Table 1. Stray singing individuals of three species were recorded on single dates in mid-summer outside of their breeding ranges and in a typical habitat: Chestnut-sided Warbler on June 26 at Fulton in Howard County (Robbins); Black-poll Warbler on June 27 at Woodside in Montgomery County (Fales and Cross); and Yellow-throated Warbler at an elevation of 800 feet near Alesia in northeastern Carroll County, June 21 (Robbins). In quite a different category were 3 Blackburnian Warblers singing on territory at an elevation of 1280 to 1400 feet along Hunting Creek in the Catoctin Mountain area of Frederick County in late June, representing a probable eastward extension of the known nesting range of the species (Stewart).

So many early warbler arrivals were reported in July and August that they have been listed in Table 2. The Lake Roland records were supplied by Charles Buchanan, Towson by Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Middle River by Edwin Willis, Patuxent Refuge (including Laurel) by Robbins, and Caroline County by Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, A. May Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher. The large number of first records in the Middle River column reflects Willis's daily observation. July 7 is a bit early for reporting a late warbler date, but since so few late summer dates have been recorded for the Swainson's Warbler the identification of 2 on this date in the Pocomoke swamp above Whaleyville is worthy of mention (Cutler).

Table 2. Fall arrival dates of warblers, 1951

Species	Lake Roland	Towson	Middle River	Laurel	Caro- line
Black and White Warbler		8/27	7/24	8/19	7/19
Worm-eating Warbler			8/19		8/15
Golden-winged Warbler	8/22	9/5	8/19		
Blue-winged Warbler	8/23	8/25	8/8		
Tennessee Warbler	9/8	9/9	9/5		
Magnolia Warbler	8/23	8/26	8/22		
Cape May Warbler		8/25	8/25		
Black-thr. Blue Warbler		9/18	8/19	8/26	9/8
Black-thr. Green Warbler			9/4	9/5	
Blackburnian Warbler	8/19	8/18	8/22		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8/19	8/18	8/14		8/14
Bay-breasted Warbler	8/26	9/5	8/29		
Prairie Warbler		8/19	8/19	8/26	
Palm Warbler	9/8			9/30	9/17
Northern Water-thrush			8/24		9/8
Kentucky Warbler			7/25		7/26
Hooded Warbler			8/16	8/26	8/16
Canada Warbler	8/19	8/18	8/5	8/18	8/14
American Redstart			7/25	8/26	8/15

Finches. Blue Grosbeaks are continuing their increase of recent years. Robert Deed recorded up to 4 in a day in the Rockville-Dickerson area (June 8); Robbins and the Stauffers established the first mid-summer record for Washington County by observing a singing male from June 15 on near Clear Spring; and Robbins noted 8 summering males along a 20-mile, 20-stop dove census route in Howard County. Dickcissels are increasing substantially in their traditional nesting areas in southwestern Montgomery County and southern Frederick County. Robert J. Beaton heard 17 singing males in the Dickerson area on July 21, more than any other count in the present century. Robbins noted 7 singing males southwest of Hagerstown (4 at Charlton and 3 at Ashton) on June 15, and collected the nest of one of them; this is the first Washington County occurrence record of modern times. Purple Finches were noticeably more common in southern Garrett County than they have been for several years.

Sparrows. Sharp-tailed, Seaside and Lark Sparrows furnished unusual distributional records during the spring migration period. Edwin Willis and Duvall Jones saw a Sharp-tail on June 2, and 4 of them on the following day at Strawberry Point in Baltimore County. Imhof saw and heard a Seaside Sparrow in a fresh-water cattail marsh on Gunpowder Neck on May 6. Both these species represent first occurrences for the head of the Chesapeake. On May 13 David Cutler discovered a Lark Sparrow in a field beside Route 50 at West Ocean City, the first spring record for the Maryland Coastal Plain. A Swamp Sparrow at Middle River on May 27 (Willis) and a Slate-colored Junco in Towson on June 3 (Coles) were belated stragglers from a "normal" but by no means uninteresting migration season.

BIRD DAY REPORT, 1951

On May 5, 1951, forty-five members in ten counties joined in the fourth annual effort to appraise the bird population throughout the State at the height of the spring migration. In marked contrast to the previous year (*Kolb, Maryland Birdlife*, 7:30-37), when Bird Day found Maryland engulfed in one of the greatest migration waves ever recorded, the 1951 date found conditions a bit below normal—making it seem as though the woods and fields were devoid of all but the common summer residents. A cool, cloudy night with northeasterly winds had precluded any appreciable influx of migrants, and similar conditions together with occasional drizzle or rain hindered observations during the day. Temperatures remained in the fifties. Winds were mostly less than 10 m.p.h. (15 m.p.h. at Pocomoke Swamp). In 1950 the average list contained 17 species of warblers, as compared with an average of only 12 this year. The drop in number of individuals was even more marked than the diminution in species. Almost everyone found Black-throated Blue Warblers last year—a total of 123; this year only 10 were found by the same number of parties. The Magnolia dropped from 46 to 6, the Canada from 45 to 2, the Cape May from 50 to 6, and so on.

In spite of the fact that a high-powered team covered the vital Ocean City-Pocomoke area (which was not included in 1950), the total number of species recorded dropped from 193 to 187. What we gained in shorebirds we more than lost in the rarer transient land birds.

Although county-wide coverage was obtained in a few cases, other lists included areas of restricted acreage (Gibson Island, Loch Raven, and Patuxent Refuge) and still others were limited to one or two principal habitat types (residential in the case of Silver Spring, and farmland in the case of Unity). Consequently, we are not surprised to find that only fifteen species occur on all fourteen lists.

All parts of the State except the two western counties were represented, and each section had its own particular specialties. All of the tidewater areas except Caroline County had at least one species that was not found by any other party; and every list claimed at least one "highest count". (See end of table). The last line in the table compares the 1951 species counts with the highest previous for each area.

Thirty-eight of the 187 species were noted by only one group (30 last year), and thirteen of these were represented by a single individual. These thirteen were primarily late stragglers of wintering species; not a single one could be classed as a rarity.

For the third year in a row the Goldfinch was the commonest bird, the date of this count coinciding with the peak of spring migration of this species. Among the more notable counts on the 5th might be mentioned 20 late Purple Sandpipers, 12 Great Black-backed Gulls, 48 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 59 White-eyed Vireos, 49 Prothonotary Warblers, and 102 Boat-tailed Grackles at Ocean City and vicinity; 38 Flickers, 77 Long-billed Marsh Wrens, 124 Wood Thrushes, and 40 Yellow Warblers at Middle River; 140 Purple Martins at Denton; and 9 Cerulean Warblers and 500 Goldfinches at Seneca. Note that all of these are either summer residents or late-departing winter residents. None of the transient species were present in large numbers, and some of the later arrivals such as the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and the Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers were not found at all. Other species, such as the Black-billed Cuckoo and Canada Warbler, which would normally be fairly common on this date, were represented by only one or two individuals.

The original purpose of these annual Bird Day counts was to provide an opportunity for each and every member to enjoy a day's birding at the very height of the spring migration with the knowledge that the results of his findings, together with the birds counted by the other members, would fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and reveal the status of bird migration throughout the State on the specified date. The first four years of this study have been eminently successful in this regard, and we already have learned a great deal about the relative abundance of certain species in different parts of Maryland, as well as the direction and rate of progress of migration through our State.

Previous trips to the Pocomoke Swamp had led us to believe that the Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape

May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Wilson's and Canada Warblers are very rare migrants on the Lower Eastern Shore; but without simultaneous records from localities west of the Bay, there was the possibility that the various Pocomoke trips had been made on days when there was no substantial migration wave in our area. Evidence is now accumulating through these simultaneous counts to show that these species are in reality quite scarce on the Lower Eastern Shore, and that they gradually become more common as one progresses westward. For purposes of illustration, let us omit for the moment the Blue-winged Warbler, which was extraordinarily and inexplicably common along the Pocomoke on May 5 of this year. Of the other twelve species of warblers, a total of 5 individuals of three species were seen this year by the Pocomoke-Ocean City party (or about one individual for each five hours of intensive observation). On May 7, 1949, with 5 hours of observation, none of these 12 species were recorded along the Pocomoke, although 115 species were found in that area. On May 9, 1948, eight hours of observation yielded four individuals of 2 of these species, out of a total list of 111 species.

Ten species which had not been listed on previous Bird Day counts were recorded in 1951: Gannet, Old-squaw and Hudsonian Curlew at Ocean City City; Whistling Swan at Elk Neck (this and 2 other species observed at Middle River and listed parenthetically were cripples); Gadwall at Loch Raven, Edgewood and Middle River; Redhead at Edgewood and Middle River; American Golden-eye and Surf Scoter at Edgewood; Ring-necked Pheasant at Patuxent Refuge; and Horned Owl at White Marsh and Edgewood.

The tabular summary gives in detail the May 5 observations together with grand totals for each species. Several creditable lists were made on May 6, but a shift to southwesterly winds had brought in additional migrants overnight so that counts made on this day were not comparable with those of the fifth. Since the Washington County party had the best coverage on the 6th and since this county was not represented among the May 5 lists, their figures have been added to the table as area number "0"; they are not included in the "TOTAL" column, however.

#### Areas and Observers, May 5, 1951

1. Frederick Co.: Frederick Branch, M.O.S.
2. Montgomery Co.: Seneca Area (Rushville, River Rd. from Violet's Lock to Pennyfield, then along Canal to Violet's Lock). F. C. Cross.
3. Montgomery Co.: Stonybrooke Farm near Unity. Seth H. Low.
4. Montgomery Co.: Silver Spring (Plyers Mill Rd.). James V. Derby.
5. Baltimore Co.: Loch Raven. 4:25 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Haven Kolb.
6. Baltimore Co.: White Marsh. Douglas Hackman.
7. Cecil Co.: Perry Pt. and Elk Neck. 8 to 5. Paul E. Taylor.
8. Harford Co.: Army Chemical Center and Edgewood. Thomas A. Imhof.

9. Baltimore Co.: Middle River (5:15-2:20), Back River (5-2), Strawberry Pt. (2:20-5:15), Bengies Pt. and Seneca Creek (5:30-8:30). Edwin Willis and Duvall Jones.
10. Anne Arundel Co.: Gibson Island (1000 acres). Two parties. 9 hrs. afoot,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by car; 6 mi. afoot, 4 by car. Charles Buchanan, Hon. and Mrs. W. L. Henderson, John Mason, Mrs. M. North, Mrs. Gail Tappan, Mrs. H. B. Temple, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Vinup.
11. Prince Geo. Co.: Patuxent Refuge. L. M. Llewellyn, R. E. Stewart.
12. Charles Co.: Port Tobacco, 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (when rained out). M. C. Crone, R. L. Farr, M. W. Goldman, N. Jenison, F. Sanders.
13. Caroline Co.: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Mrs. Alicia Knotts, Miss A. May Thompson.
14. Worcester Co.: South to Snow Hill, and including eastern fringe of Wicomico Co. along Pocomoke River. 3 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. John H. Buckalew, David Cutler, Pearl Heaps, Bill Jay, Alice Kaestner, E. O. Mellinger, Chandler S. Robbins.

#### Resume of May 6 Reports

Washington Co. (See table) Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Stauffer.

Baltimore Co.: McDonogh. 5 hr. (10-1, 3-5). 72 species including 2 Hooded Mergansers, 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, not recorded by any of the May 5 parties; also high counts for Veery (6) and White-crowned Sparrow (3). A. O. Ramsey, M. Ramsay, Paul Spitler, Jr., Robert Williamson.

Baltimore Co.: Loch Raven. 5:40 to 2:30. 76 species including 3 Least Flycatchers and 2 Olive-backed Thrushes, not recorded on May 5, and the highest count for Blackburnian Warbler (3). Charles Buchanan and John Mason.

Harford Co.: Fallston. 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. 29 species. Gordon Vars.

Harford Co.: Army Chemical Center and Edgewood. 3 to 5 p.m. 66 species, including highest counts for Virginia Rail (3), Florida Gallinule (3), and Coot (6). Two-day total, 97 sp. Thomas A. Imhof.

Dorchester Co.: Elliott Island and Blackwater Refuge. 2:15-6:45 p.m. 76 species including 3 Brown-headed Nuthatches, not recorded on May 5; also, high counts for Black Duck (59), Blue-winged Teal (4), Bald Eagle (6), Marsh Hawk (2), Bob-white (15), King Rail (4), Tree Swallow (250), Pine Warbler (10), and Red-wing (380). D. Cutler, Ray Dunlap, Tom Hallowell, Pearl Heaps, Bill Jay, Alice Kaestner, James Nestel, Chandler S. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Ward.

Worcester Co.: Ocean City and Pocomoke River near Whaleyeville. 6 to 1. 115 species including 2 Snowy Egrets, 2 Piping Plover, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 7 Dowitchers, 7 Least Terns, and 2 Black Skimmers, not found on May 5; also, high counts for Red-throated Loon (3), Double-crested Cormorant (700), American Egret (3), Clapper Rail (16), Black-bellied Plover (40), Hudsonian Curlew (5), Red-backed Sandpiper (40), and Semipalmated Sandpiper (5). Same observers as above.

## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

	0 WCo	1 Fred	2 Sen	3 Unty	4 SSp	5 LRv	6 WtM	7 Elk	8 Edg	9 MRv	10 Gib	11 Patx	12 PTb	13 Den	14 OcC	Total
Gt. Blk-back Gull							2	6	1	16	87		25	12	12	12
Herring Gull							2	175		25	5		10	985	1105	235
Ring-billed Gull														20	25	6
Laughing Gull														6		6
Forster's Tern																
Common Tern															6	6
Caspian Tern																12
Mourning Dove	5	8	1	1	6		2		3	16	3	4	13	28	11	96
Black-bill Cuckoo							1		1	1						1
Horned Owl																2
Barred Owl							3						2	1	7	13
Chuck-wills-widow															16	16
Whip-poor-will	3			1		1	2		1	1		5		2	33	46
Nighthawk	1													3		3
Chimney Swift	85	x	16	8	13	4	14	12	55	65	8	14	45	139	55	448
Ruby-thr. Hummer									1		4			1	1	7
Belted Kingfisher		1	1	2		9	1	3	.2	15	5	2	1	4	2	27
Flicker	1	3	2						15	38	3	2	2	4	5	89
Pileated Woodprkr.	1											1			8	9
Red-bell Wdpkr.		1	1	1	7		1		6	1	5	3	8	4	16	54
Red-headed Wdpkr.									1	1						2
Hairy Woodpecker			1		4				2	3	1	1		1	7	20
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	3	4	7		1		6	10	4	2	6	5	6	55
Eastern Kingbird				1	3	1	5	2	3	2	8	5	30	28	6	94
Crested Flycatch.	1	1			4		7	1	5	13	2	1		10	31	75
Eastern Phoebe	5	5	7	2	7	2	2	4	2	1	1	6		11	7	57
Acadian Flycatch.			6										6	1	8	21
East. Wood Pewee	4				3			1						1		5
Horned Lark									1	3		1		2	5	12
Tree Swallow							1	8	20	8			25	17	10	89
Bank Swallow							25		5	3			2			36
Rough-wg. Swallow	7	3	6			2	2		15	27	15		9	5	30	114
Barn Swallow	13	10	11	10	12	20	16	15	60	115	95	25	20	86	59	554
Purple Martin	3			10			4	6	50	14	4	4	4	140	33	265
Blue Jay	1	2	3	6	22	4	14	7	20	78	15	5		10	9	195
Crow	56	x	6	6	12	13	5	6	50	32	9	9	20	50	62	282
Fish Crow								1	35	8	7		2		1	54
Carolina Chick.	5	2	20	2	7	2	4	4	8	10	3	8	12	27	30	139
Tufted Titmouse	7		8	2	4		4	9	12	33	4	4	14	18	48	160
White-br. Nuthatch			1	7				1							3	12
House Wren	18	x	2	8	6	5	5	3	1	32	12	3	1	7	5	90
Carolina Wren	4	1	4			2	5	1	5	32	10		5	5	21	91
Long-bill M. Wren									1	77					1	80
Short-bill M Wren															2	2
Mockingbird	3	2	2	1	8	2	3		10	15	14	6	3	18	2	86
Catbird	12	3	5	6	16	2	4	3	1	71	21	3	30	17	15	197
Brown Thrasher	9	2	1	4	5		3	1	3	23	13	8	2	11	20	96
Robin	33	x	10		27	5	18	25	100	188	17	12	10	132	32	574
Wood Thrush	24	3	4	2	18	3	8	7	7	124	6	5	12	20	49	268
Olive-back Thrush	2						1	24								0
Veery																9
Eastern Bluebird	2	15		2	7	3	6	3	4	1	8	8	10	35	20	122
Bl-gr. Gnatcatcher			3	2	2	2	4		15			2	25	9	48	110
Ruby-cr. Kinglet								1								1
Cedar Waxwing							1	24						17	5	56
Starling	35	x	35	4	17	3	17	25	100	175	17	27	10	196	53	677
White-eyed Vireo			1		2	4			2	7	5	8	6	9	59	103
Yellow-thr. Vireo	3		2			1			3			2	4	1	14	27
Blue-headed Vireo			1				2					2			5	5
Red-eyed Vireo	1		6		3	1			6	2	3	8	4	11	34	78
Warbling Vireo	24										1			3		4
Blk & White Warb.	1		3	2	7	3	9	2		7	4	6	11	6	46	106
Prothonotary Warb.			1				2					6		6	49	56
Worm-eating Warb.	2											1		1		4
Golden-wing. Warb			1									2		3		8

	0 WCo.	1 Fred	2 Sen	3 Unty	4 SSp	5 LRv	6 WtM	7 Elk	8 Edg	9 MRv	10 Gib	11 Patx	12 PTb	13 Den	14 OcC	Total
Blue-winged Warb.	2								2	4		6	3	23	38	
Tennessee Warbler											1			0	0	
Nashville Warbler	7		8		6	1			15	6	8	15	3	49	2	
Parula Warbler	5		2		2		7	8	20	40	13	15	11	6	111	
Yellow Warbler															124	
Magnolia Warbler	2				5				1						5	
Cape May Warbler	2			2						6	2	3		1	6	
Black-thr. Blue W.	28		40		6	3			20	104	7	1	12	26	106	
Myrtle Warbler			5		2						3				332	
Bik-thr. Green W.		3									1			1	15	
Cerulean Warbler	1		9					2		1		2			9	
Blackburnian Warb.	2		2								1				7	
Yellow-thr. Warb.								1		6		6	2	2	28	
Chestnut-sided W.	2		9									2			27	
Bay-breasted Warb		1													3	
Black-poll Warb.			3		3						1	1	8	5	24	
Pine Warbler											2	2	1	4	7	
Prairie Warbler -		25	6		2	10	3	5	2	4	10	2	4	7	90	
Oven-bird	3				5	1	3	12	15	13	5	5	8	13	63	
No. Water-thrush									3			2			5	
La. Water-thrush	5		4									2	1	14	21	
Kentucky Warbler			5		3						1		1	21	32	
Yellow-throat	4	4	7		2	18	4	6	1	108	6	6	19	16	266	
Yellow-br. Chat		1	1		2				3	1	3	1	7	3	33	
Hooded Warbler	1		6		1				2	6	4	2		21	42	
Canada Warbler												2			2	
American Redstart	7	x	23		11	5	6	3	3	3	10	30	71	162		
English Sparrow	86		17	12	4		40	21	30	132	9	6	176	482		
Bobolink			1		5			5			5	25	1	37		
E. Meadowlark	27	2	3	10	6	2		9	15	12	6	15	44	23	147	
Red-wing	38	25	21	6		19	28	35	200	171	24	4	31	223	1002	
Orchard Oriole	2		1	6				1	1	3	5	3	9	9	38	
Baltimore Oriole		9	1					6	6	1	1		7	1	32	
Rusty Blackbird								1					16	17		
Boat-tail Grackle													102	102		
Purple Grackle	50	x	18	6		2	12	30	84	4	2	6	188	140	450	
Cowbird	8	15	7	12	2	5	21	4	50	55	24	6	20	75	328	
Scarlet Tanager	1		4	1	7		1		2	4	5	6	6	3	51	
Summer Tanager											2			2		
Cardinal	27	20	9	8	15	6	3	6	12	40	17	6	10	48	285	
Rose-br. Grosbeak		1	1	1		2	1	3	2	1	5	6	12	15	10	
Indigo Bunting	4	12	3		1	1	3				6		1	5	62	
Purple Finch					3										3	
Am. Goldfinch	88	100+	500	8	55	7	23	12	25	87	34	200+	8	71	1375	
Red-eyed Towhee	13	12	2	19	10	5	20	30	135	16	9	7	34	49	348	
Savannah Sparrow	11	3		15		2		3		15		2	3	11	44	
Grasshopper Spar														8	10	
Henslow's Sparrow														6	19	
Sharp-tailed Spar														6	6	
Staside Sparrow															6	
Vesper Sparrow	1			2					1			1		4	6	
Slate-col. Junco	4		3									2			5	
Chipping Sparrow	12	12	2	10	3	4	10	4	10	25	25	12	5	24	181	
Field Sparrow	17	7	4	10	4	7	8	5	15	35	5	2	15	19	172	
White-crown Spar.		1		3											4	
White-throat Spar	15	3	37	5	5	20	11	5	8	34	36	3	15	9	47	
Lincoln's Sparrow			1		3	4	1		1	10	21	12	12	12	1	
Swamp Sparrow					3	7	16	7	15	101	21	12	12	12	23	
Song Sparrow	27	20	5	8	7	7	16	7	15	101	21	12	12	30	273	
Total Species	71	46	78	47	61	53	71	62	32	102	50	94	80	86	134	
Total Individ.	928	341	971	231	447	249	458	644	1232	2684	841	610	796	2262	16,042	
Party-hours	10	5	5	3	4	10%	9	9	4	24½	11½	4	7½	20	25	
No. Observers	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	9	3	5	5	45	
Only record for sp.	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	4	2	1	1	2	0	23	
No. Highest Counts	6	2	7	4	3	1	6	5	12	37	6	8	7	16	54	
No. sp of highest	-16	=	-23	-11	new	-27	-1	new	new	-19	+29	-29	-8	new	+19	-6